

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendment and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1 - 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, and 28 under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Clarke et al. is again traversed. Applicants' invention is directed to a household care product composition of a vehicle system comprising a hydrophobically modified nonionic water-soluble polysaccharide polymer and at least one other household care ingredient. Applicants have now limited in claim 1 the backbone polymer of the molecule to the exclusion of hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC). Please note that the reinsertion of the HEC backbone into claim 1 in the Ex Parte Quayle Amendment of May 4, 2005 after deleting it in the amendment filed March 71, 2002 was an oversight on the part of the undersigned attorney. Hence, by correcting this inadvertence, Clarke et al does not disclose applicant's invention. Clarke et al discloses a cosmetic, personal care and household care product that uses a fluid polymer suspension of at least one water soluble polysaccharide selected from methylhydroxypropylcellulose (MHPC), methylhydroxyethylcellulose (MHEC), methylcellulose (MC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), and hydrophobically modified hydroxyethylcellulose (HMHEC) in aqueous carrier solution comprised of salt. The aqueous carrier solution must also contain low molecular weight water-soluble polymer. That is, the polymer must be delivered as a mixture of salt, water, in conjunction with another low water soluble polymer. This FPS system has limitations in that it must be shipped or stored between 45° F and 140° F. It is unusable if stored below 45° F. Since the instant application no longer claims the generic HMHEC as a polymer in this invention, Clarke et al is no longer relevant as a reference against this invention. Hence, Clarke et al clearly does not anticipate this invention.

The criticality of the instant invention is that applicants can use a non-associative or associative thickener that has never been used before in household care products and have illustrated this point many times in the numerous Examples set forth in the specification. Hence, a person skilled in the art armed with the Clarke patent would not be able to practice applicants' invention because there is nothing in this reference or any secondary teaching that would lead a person to use the teaching of Clarke et al in the household care formulations of the instant invention

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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